GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1665
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
EMPLOYMENT TO LAND OUSTEES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has decided to put a ban on providing employment to the dependents of the farmers whose land has been acquired ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by the Government regarding the pending cases of providing employment to the dependents prior to the said decision ;

(d) whether the compensation given for acquisition of Forest is more as compared to the compensation given to the farmers ;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the compensation for the acquisition of land from the farmers, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): No, Sir. However in view of limited job opportunities for unskilled workers, the stipulation of providing employment in addition to compensation for land acquired needs to be revised.

(b) & (c): Coal India Limited framed a Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy (R&R Policy) which came into effect in 1994 and was subsequently amended in 2000.

(d) : Forest land is not acquired like tenancy land. It is transferred to the user agency for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose on lease basis. The ownership remains with the Forest Department. The Forest Department charges premium which includes various ingredients such as compensatory afforestation charges, fire protection charges, plantation regeneration charges, net present value of the forest produce etc. as a principle of restitution for environmental losses like soil erosion, effect on hydrological cycle, wild life habitat, microclimate upsetting of ecological balance and the principle of fair return. The payment of compensation in these two types of land is not comparable.

(e) & (f): Compensation to the farmers for acquisition of their land is paid as per provisions of the Act. Amount of compensation is decided at the time of acquisition on the basis of prevailing fair market value of the land.